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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE REMOVAL AND PREVENTION
EPA CONTRACT 68-01-7367

Mr. Duane Heaton
Deputy Project Officer
Emergency Support Section, 5HS-11
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

September 29, 1989

TAT-05-G2-01289

Re: Barrels, Inc, Lansing, Michigan
TDD# 5-8907-34

Dear Mr. Heaton:

On July 19, 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) tasked the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) to review the Barrels, Inc. (Barrels) National Priorities List (NPL) site for a possible removal action. After a review of available files, and consultations with appropriate U.S. EPA, state, and local officials, the TAT conducted a site investigation on August 15, 1989. This letter report summarizes the TAT activities.

The Barrels site is located at 1404 North Larch Street, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan (Figure 1 and 2). The surrounding community is commercial/industrial, with three schools within a quarter mile of the site. The site overlies an aquifer comprised of unconsolidated glacial drift, overlying the Saginaw Formation. The ground water in the vicinity of the site flows in a westerly direction. The closest body of surface water is the Grand River, located about one-half mile to the east.

Barrels, owned and operated by Morris Goldstein, previously recycled drums on the property, which it leased from the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company from 1964 to 1981. Barrels reportedly dumped waste residues from drums directly onto the ground as an initial step in recycling drums. According to tests conducted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in 1983, shallow ground water in the area was found to be contaminated with lead and zinc. The shallow contaminated aquifer is hydraulically connected to the deeper Saginaw Formation. The shallow and deep aquifers provide drinking water to the residents of Lansing and Holt via municipal wells within 3 miles of the site. Lead was detected in on-site monitoring wells at concentrations between 200-350 micrograms per liter (ug/l). Lead, however, was not detected in nearby off-site wells, which draw water from the same aquifer.

Roy F. Weston, Inc.

SPILL PREVENTION & EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION

In Association with ICF Technology Inc., C.C. Johnson & Malhotra, P.C., Resource Applications, Inc.,
Geo/Resource Consultants, Inc., and Environmental Toxicology International, Inc.

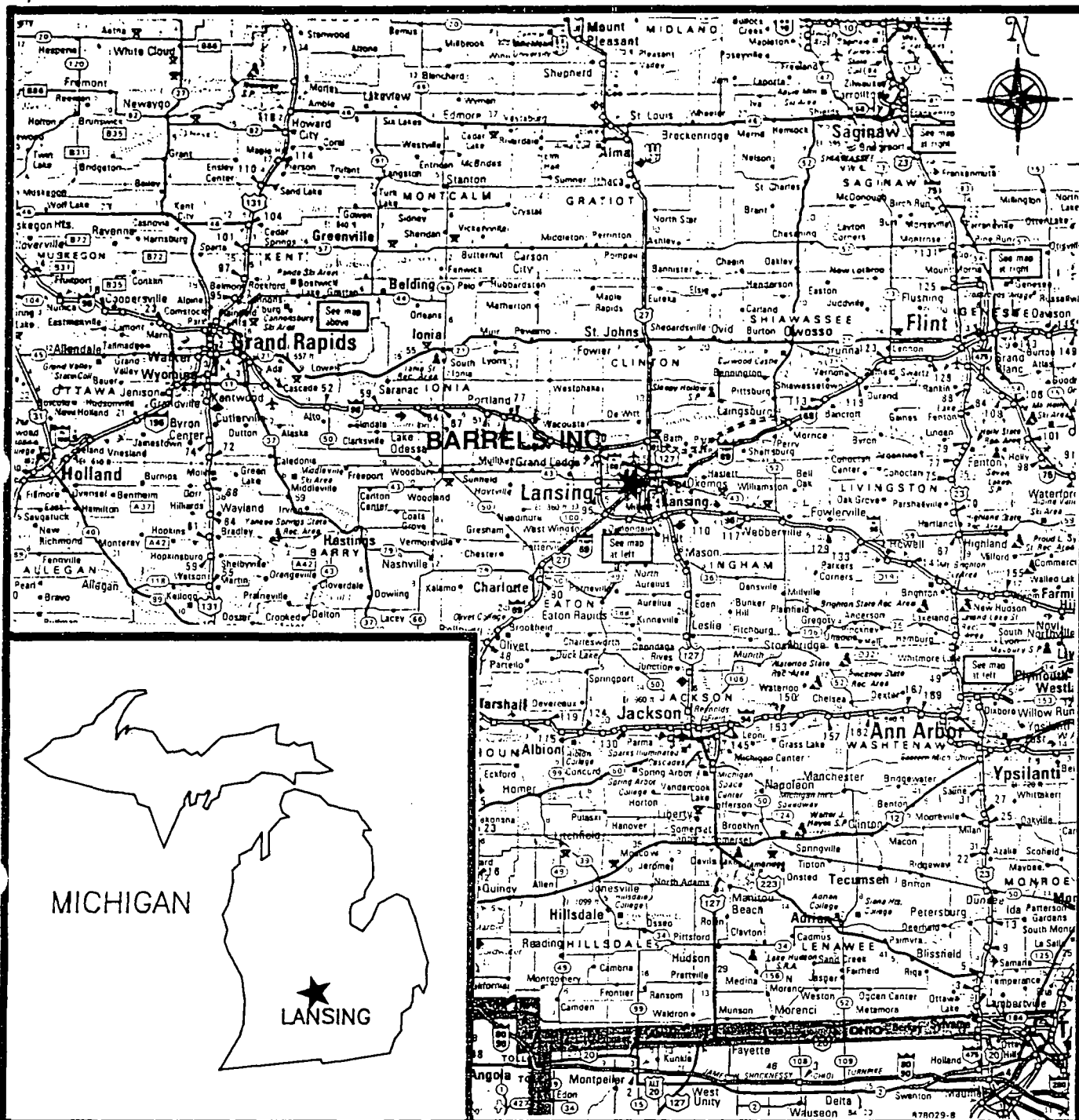


FIGURE 1
 SITE LOCATION MAP
 BARRELS INC.
 LANSING, MICHIGAN
 SCALE 1 INCH= 20 MILES

WESTON
 MANAGERS DESIGNERS/CONSULTANTS

DRAWN BY N.K.	DATE 8-21-89	PCS # 2324
APPROVED BY R.MEHL	DATE 8-21-89	TDD # 5-8907-34

LARCH STREET

NEIGHBORING PROPERTY

FLATTENED

SNOW FENCE



MAIN BUILDING

STAINED SOIL

GATE

LOADING DOCK

FENCE

SHED

FENCE

FIGURE 2
SITE MAP
BARRELS INC.
LANSING, MICHIGAN

NOT TO SCALE



DRAWN BY
N.K.

DATE
8-21-89

PCS #
2324

APPROVED BY
R.MEHL

DATE
8-21-89

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5-8907-34

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The two off-site monitoring wells are located on neighboring properties. One well is located approximately 1,000 feet northeast of the site. No private wells are located in the immediate vicinity of the Barrels site.

Zinc was also detected in on-site monitoring wells at concentrations between 33,000-61,000 ug/l as well as in off-site wells at levels up to 85 ug/l. According to a Lansing City Water Department chemist, Bill Myer, analytical results of city wells in the vicinity of the Barrels site have not indicated the presence of lead or zinc during the past 2 years.

In January 1986, the MDNR disposed of drums, visibly contaminated soil, and underground tanks at a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act approved landfill.

On August 15, 1989, TAT members Steve Bosko, Richard Mehl and Nikhil Kumaranayagam conducted an investigation at the Barrels site. The TAT inspected the site from the perimeter due to difficulty in obtaining site access. The site is fenced and was observed to be secure except for an area on the north east side where access could be gained from the neighboring property. A snow fence that was pulled down appeared to have been used to prevent site access from the neighboring property. The TAT observed that the doors in the main building leading to the loading dock were open. A broken gate and a rolled up fence inside the property were also observed. The TAT observed two 300 gallon poly tanks inside the building that appeared to contain several inches of caustic soda and bleach, according to labels affixed to the tanks. The TAT also observed stained soils along the railroad spur on the northeast side of the building. The TAT documented these observations with photographs.

Conditions observed by the TAT at the Barrels site that may be considered in determining the appropriateness of a removal action as outlined in Section 300.65(b)(2) of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) include:

- o Actual or potential exposure to hazardous substances by nearby populations, animals or food chain;
- o Hazardous substances in drums and tanks that may pose a threat of release; and



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- o High levels of hazardous substance in soil at or near the surface that may migrate.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

ROY F. WESTON, INC.

Sally Matz

FOR Nikhil Kumaranayagam
Environmental Scientist

Melody Sullivan

FOL William R. Doyle
Technical Assistance Team
Leader, Region V

NK:dn

Attachments
cc: B. Bowden

ATTACHMENT A

PHOTOGRAPHS



PHOTO: 1
 SITE: BARRELS INC.,
 DESCRIPTION: CONTAMINATED SOIL EAST OF BUILDING NEXT TO
 RAILROAD
 DATE/TIME: AUGUST 15, 1989/1735
 PHOTOGRAPHER: S. BOSKO *SRB*



PHOTO: 2
 SITE: BI
 DESCRIPTION: ROLLED UP FENCE SOUTH OF BUILDING
 DATE/TIME: AUGUST 15, 1989/1740
 PHOTOGRAPHER: S. BOSKO *SRB*